

Becoming an ADAM Affiliate Site

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) invites your jurisdiction to join the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program as an affiliate site. ADAM affiliate sites operate in all respects as core ADAM sites but are supported through sources other than NIJ's core ADAM funds.

What Are the Benefits of ADAM?

ADAM is a research tool for measuring the use of drugs and alcohol and provides communities across the country with timely information about drugs and crime, emerging drug trends, drug markets, the effect of law enforcement on drug use, treatment needs, and a wide range of related issues. Within 48 hours of arrest, ADAM staff interview and drug-test persons held in lockups and booking centers in cities across the country. The data provide scientifically justifiable local estimates of drug use by arrestees – as opposed to a national number – for examining trends of drug use across and within jurisdictions.

ADAM focuses on a segment of the population at extremely high risk for drug use, involvement in drug distribution, and a range of criminal activities. Arrestees can provide an early warning to future drug epidemics. In the 1980s, the program found high levels of crack cocaine abuse at a time when treatment programs were focusing on treatment for heroin abuse. In the 1990s, a similar trend or pattern for methamphetamine has been detected in the arrestee population.

Researchers have estimated that more than half of all drugs used in the U.S. are consumed by persons who eventually come to the attention of the police. These “hard-core” drug users are targeted in the National Drug Control Strategy. The more we can reduce drug use among this segment of the population, the safer our communities will be. As we learn more about their drug use – through research like ADAM – the more effective our drug control and intervention programs can become to reduce drug use and enhance public safety.

Why Join ADAM as an Affiliate Site?

Currently, NIJ is authorized to support 35 ADAM sites through core funds appropriated by Congress yearly. Within the next three years, NIJ proposes to expand ADAM to 75 core urban counties collecting arrestee data on a quarterly basis with rural/suburban outreach data collection once a year in each site. The President's budget for fiscal year 2001, currently under review by Congress, proposes funding for 15 sites to bring the total number to 50 sites. If approved, NIJ will proceed to select new ADAM sites under a solicitation seeking applications from municipalities previously issued in 1999 and expected to be issued again in 2001.

Sites seeking to enter as affiliates, however, are not required to wait for NIJ to receive expansion funds, issue a solicitation, review the applications, and then make the selection of new sites before negotiations begin. Affiliates may come into the program outside of NIJ's regular process of recruiting and initiating sites. Moreover, affiliate sites will be eligible to apply for support through core ADAM funding should expansion of the program be approved, and will be attractive candidates for becoming core ADAM members.

How to Become an Affiliate Site

Memorandum of Understanding. The process of enlisting as an ADAM affiliate site starts with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NIJ and the affiliate site lead agency or organization. The MOU sets forth the terms by which the site may be considered part of the ADAM program. In general, the site agrees to operate within the guidelines established for the 35 core sites and comply with all Federal laws, regulations, policies and procedures. The MOU clarifies data rights and usages issues for data access and sharing among the parties. The MOU also sets forth the relationship of the site to NIJ, and its national contractors for ADAM. Once a prospective affiliate site has signed an MOU with NIJ, the site will be referred to NIJ's national contractors to begin exploring operational issues for starting data collection.

Funding for Affiliates. Affiliate sites are typically responsible for obtaining all or most of the funding required to be an ADAM site. Potential sources include:

- ★ Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Block Grant program
- ★ Local Law Enforcement Assistance Block Grants program
- ★ Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) Statewide Needs Assessment program
- ★ State or local funding in your jurisdiction
- ★ Private foundations

We encourage local sites interested in enlisting as an affiliate ADAM site to seek outside funding that could be used for a quarter or more of data collection. Included in this packet is information on accessing some of the sources noted above. The literature contains the names of web site links where additional information is available.

Initiating the Affiliate Site. The strong infrastructure of the ADAM program makes it easy for a jurisdiction to join as an affiliate site and derive all the benefits of being part of the larger network. The program originated in 1987 under the name Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) as an association of cities where information on arrestee drug use was collected under a similar research protocol on a quarterly basis each year. In 1997 the program was re-named ADAM and significant enhancements were introduced to the scientific foundation that included centralized site management through a national contractor. As a result, the program has increased its ability to deliver high quality training and technical assistance to the local sites, rapid processing and turnaround of data, and support for enabling sites to direct uses of their data through a Local Coordinating Council.

Sites' Requirements. The affiliate site agrees to use all ADAM protocols, instruments, and training materials and follow all ADAM policies and procedures as outlined in NIJ's ADAM Site Manual. The affiliate site agrees to follow all ADAM/NIJ policies and procedures regarding the archiving of the data that are collected. All data, including any collected through an addendum instrument to the core ADAM interview instrument, collected by the affiliated site are the property of NIJ. However, the affiliated site has full rights of access to and use of their data. Included in this packet is information from the ADAM Site Manual on initiating a site.

ADAM National Contractors. While the site's primary relationship and agreements as an ADAM site are with NIJ, the affiliate site is responsible for entering into and funding a contract with the ADAM national contractor for site management. The contract will cover services for technical assistance for determining a sampling plan and for training interviewer and site coordination staff; training materials, interview instruments and other operational materials; web site support, data transfer, processing, and cleaning; quarterly reports on findings; and on-site interviewer and supervisor labor, and site director remuneration. The affiliate site is

responsible for entering into and funding a contract with ADAM's laboratory contractor for performing urinalysis. The contract will cover services to perform urinalysis tests on the urine specimens collected by the affiliate site under the same procedures used for the other ADAM sites.

What are the Costs of an ADAM Site?

Data Collection Operations and Support. The cost to run an ADAM site varies across jurisdictions depending on such factors as local labor costs and the number of jail facilities from which cases must be collected in order to obtain a representative sample. The *average cost per quarter* for sites currently in operation is \$42,500, or \$170,000 a year.

Laboratory costs for Urinalysis . The cost for the standard 10-drug panel analyzed for ADAM sites varies across sites and depends on the sample size. The *approximate cost per quarter* for sites currently in operation is \$2,500 per quarter (approximately \$11.00 per specimen analyzed), or \$10,000 a year.

For Further Information

If you require further information, please contact:

Nora Fitzgerald
National Institute of Justice
810 7th St. NW
Washington, DC 20531
Phone: 202-305-1547
Fax: 202-616-0275
E-Mail: fitzgera@ojp.usdoj.gov